

FACT SHEET

EQUIPMENT TRANSFER AT ROCKY FLATS AIDING LOCAL ECONOMY



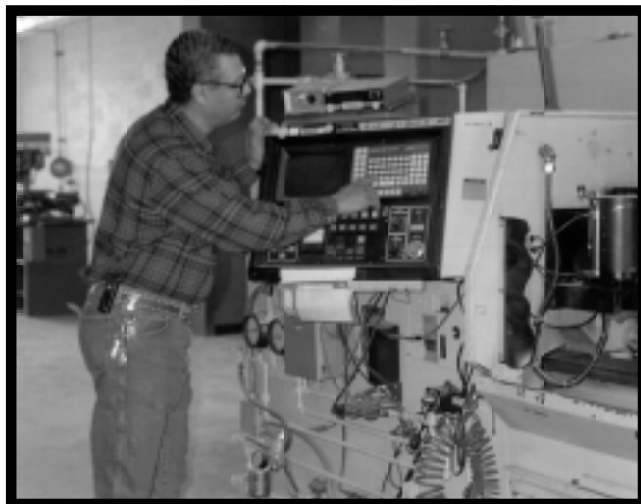
Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background and Challenges

The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Rocky Flats) was originally established in 1952 as a nuclear weapons production facility, and since 1993 has operated as an environmental cleanup site. Rocky Flats is located close to over twenty municipalities with nearly two million people living within fifty miles of the facility. The goal is to cleanup and demolish the buildings, transfer the nuclear materials to other defense nuclear sites, and dispose of all remaining waste. Since 1994, the new mission has resulted in a work force reduction of over 4,000 jobs--over half the contractor work force.

The Path to Progress

To alleviate the effects of this reduction, the Rocky Flats Local Impacts Initiative (RFLII) was designated as the Community Reuse Organization (CRO) by the Department of Energy (DOE) in 1993. RFLII operated through a board made up of local officials, union and salaried workers, plant neighbors, business interests and community-based interest groups. As the CRO, the mission of RFLII was to identify opportunities and impacts resulting from the change in mission and downsizing, implement programs that maximize opportunities and mitigate impacts, plan for Rocky Flats future, and increase public participation in the planning decisions.



Dallas Sherman, former Rocky Flats employee, preparing to teach a course at Rocky Mountain Manufacturing Academy with donated site equipment.

RFLII received \$8 million over five years, during which community transition programs were implemented and successfully completed by the end of 1998. At that time, RFLII ended its tenure as CRO and eight projects achieved sustainability, continuing without Department support.

Community Success Stories

RFLII's strategy focuses on creating new, high-wage private sector jobs that match the skills of displaced Rocky Flats workers. RFLII set out to achieve this by strengthening and diversifying



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the local economy; helping companies to expand in target industry sectors; assisting businesses started by Rocky Flats workers; enhancing research, training, education; and technical assistance in target industry sectors.

Jobs Created to Strengthen Economy

- RFLII administered twenty different programs to strengthen the sectors of the Colorado economy that were most conducive to creating new jobs that utilized the skills of former Rocky Flats workers. These areas included the manufacturing sector of environmental technology, biomedical devices, advanced machining, and advanced computer system hardware and telecommunications equipment. These programs created over 1,700 new jobs.

Equipment Transfers Save DOE Dollars

- Excess manufacturing equipment was sold to 180 companies in the RFLII ten-county impact area. This resulted in nearly \$400,000 in total sales retained by Rocky Flats to facilitate accelerated closure of the site, while also supporting the manufacturing sector in Colorado.
- The Rocky Mountain Manufacturing Academy, started by RFLII in 1994, received over 300 pieces of excess manufacturing equipment from Rocky Flats with a replacement value of \$15 million. This Academy has become a national model of cooperation among the private sector, the community college system, and the state's graduate level engineering programs. The Academy has more than doubled its initial investment with state, federal, philanthropic and private sector contributions benefiting Colorado communities.

Support for New Business Ventures

- RFLII funded the Entrepreneur Resource Program to support Rocky Flats workers who started their own businesses. Two program-supported companies formed by former Rocky Flats workers, the Alpha Group and Project Management Alliance, were recognized as two of the fastest growing companies in the Denver metro area.

Future Activities

A successor entity, the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, will begin operating in the spring of 1999 to continue the RFLII's work related to outreach, long-term stewardship, and future use planning. Due to the presence of plutonium and the accelerated cleanup schedule, reuse of Rocky Flats in the near future is neither practical nor desired by the community. After cleanup is complete, the 6,000-acre buffer zone has been identified for preservation as part of Colorado's open space network. The expected cleanup for the 400-acre interior industrial area will make it suitable for a range of uses, from open space to an employment center, which the community will determine once the nature and extent of the cleanup is better known.

Contact Information

For more information on this project or the Office of Worker and Community Transition, please contact:

Tom Brunner, Chair
Rocky Flats Coalition of Local
Governments
5460 Ward Road, Suite 205
Arvada, CO 80002
Phone: (303) 940-6090

Jeremy Karpatkin
Department of Energy
Office of Communications
Rocky Flats Environmental
Technology Site
PO Box 928
Golden, CO 80402-0928

Office of Worker and Community Transition
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585
Phone: (202) 586-7550
Fax: (202) 586-8403
[http:// www.wct.doe.gov](http://www.wct.doe.gov)